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**To:** [R6 Response Notify](#)  
**Subject:** Collision in Houston Ship Channel  
**Date:** Monday, March 09, 2015 8:47:51 PM

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EPA received notification from Sector Houston-Galveston about a collision in the upper Houston Ship Channel (Morgan Point area) that occurred at 1247 CT. The 600 ft M/V Carla Maersk was loaded with 216,000 barrels of MTBE and reported three cargo tanks potentially breeched and leaking (unknown quantity released). The 623 ft M/V Conti Peridot is a bulk carrier (steel cargo), damage unknown but no discharge. No injuries reported. Fog is impacting the ability to conduct overflight and USCG will arrange once weather permits.

The incident is in USCG jurisdiction. START has been activated to provide air monitoring and OSC Warren Zehner is ready to mobilize if needed.

**Update #1 [03.09.15 @ 2002]**

- First USCG Ops Briefing @1830, tasking to include:
  1. Air monitoring (by CTEH)
  2. Stop plume from ship
    - Pumped cargo on port side to starboard side away from leak.
  3. Assessment to see if any MTBE is on the surface of the water. Volatilization/solubility high but current cool temps could affect
  4. Environmental Concerns (Phone number set up for public to call)
  5. Keep Public Informed
  6. Once material is out of the containers, salvage ship and re-open ship channel
- START is working with CTEH on air monitoring
- Command Post final location: 3001 N. 23<sup>rd</sup>, LaPorte, Tx (LaPorte Police Dept)
- Talked with Mark McCasland (Drinking Water lead) regarding intakes and will follow up tomorrow. Mark is visiting near Houston and is willing to go if we need support.
- The number of bbl released has been inconsistent due to the cargo tanks also taking on water. Awaiting confirmation of final release number from USCG.



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